

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 CFR 1.111
Serial No. 09/199,566
Attorney Docket No. 981391

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of claims:

Claims 1-40 (canceled).

Claim 41 (New): A passport transaction apparatus, comprising:

a card processing unit configured to receive a card for an applicant's account at a financial institution, and to read data on the card;

a data input unit configured to receive from the applicant input data including at least one of personal information of the applicant, a code number of the card, and a handwritten signature of the applicant, and to input the input data;

an image input unit configured to take a photograph of the applicant, and to input an image of the applicant so as to monitor the applicant from a remote site remote from the passport transaction apparatus;

a control unit configured to

transmit the image input by the image input unit to the remote site via a network,

transmit the code number input by the data input unit and the data read by the card processing unit via the network to the financial institution;

receive registered personal information of the applicant from the financial institution and data related to an official certificate of the applicant from a public institution, when the financial institution identifies the applicant based on the code number and the data transmitted;

transmit via the network the registered personal information received or the personal information input by the data input unit and the data related to the official certificate to a passport center which examines passport applications, and

communicate with the financial institution to process a payment based on the data read by the card processing unit and the code number input by the data input unit, when a fee for a passport application is to be paid with the card;

a passport issuing unit configured to prepare and output a passport using the photograph taken by the image input unit and the handwritten signature input by the data input unit when issuance of a passport to the applicant is allowed by the passport center as a result of the examination; and

a cash processing unit configured to receive and provide cash from and to the applicant when the fee is to be paid by cash, wherein

the financial institution, the public institution, and the passport center are different institutions.

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Claim 42 (New): The passport transaction apparatus according to claim 41, wherein the remote site is the passport center.

Claim 43 (New): The passport transaction apparatus according to claim 41, wherein the passport transaction apparatus is connected to the financial institution and the public institution via the passport center.

Claim 44 (New): The passport transaction apparatus according to claim 41, further comprising a passport processing unit configured to receive an issued passport and read contents of the issued passport, wherein the data input unit is configured to receive and input corrected contents from an applicant as the personal information when the contents read are required to be corrected.

Claim 45 (New): The passport transaction apparatus according to claim 41, further comprising a receipt issuing unit configured to issue a receipt on which authentication data for identifying the applicant when the applicant returns to the passport transaction apparatus on a later day to receive a passport is printed, wherein

the authentication data is registered at the passport center with personal information of the applicant, and

the passport issuing unit is configured to issue the passport to the applicant when the passport center allows the issuance of passport based on authentication data input by the applicant via the data input unit on the later day and the authentication data registered at the passport center.

46 (New): The passport transaction apparatus according to claim 45, wherein the passport issuing unit is configured to issue the passport when the passport center allows the issuance of passport based on the photograph of the applicant stored at the passport center and the image of an applicant who comes to the transaction apparatus to receive the passport on the later day input by the image input unit.

Claim 47 (New): The passport transaction apparatus according to claim 41, further comprising a voice input/output unit configured to output a voice guidance to the applicant and to input a voice from the applicant.

Claim 48 (New): The passport transaction apparatus according to claim 41, wherein the data input unit is a touch panel display.

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Claim 49 (New): The passport transaction apparatus according to claim 41, wherein the card processing unit is configured to read personal information of an applicant directly from a recording medium.

Claim 50 (New): The passport transaction apparatus according to claim 49, wherein the recording medium is an IC card.

Claim 51 (New): A passport transaction method, comprising:

- reading data of a card for an applicant's account at a financial institution;
- inputting input data including at least one of personal information of the applicant, a code number of the card, and a handwritten signature of the applicant;
- taking a photograph of the applicant and inputting an image of the applicant so as to monitor the applicant from a remote site remote from the applicant;
- transmitting the image input to the remote site via a network;
- transmitting the code number of the card input and the data read to the financial institution via the network;
- receiving registered personal information from the financial institution and data related to an official certificate of the applicant from a public institution via the network, when the applicant is identified by the financial institution based on the code number and the data transmitted;

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transmitting via the network the registered personal information received or the personal information input and the data related to the official certificate to a passport center which examines passport applications;

communicating with the financial institution to process a payment based on the data read and the code number input, when a fee for a passport application is to be paid with the card;

preparing and outputting a passport using the photograph taken and the handwritten signature input, when issuance of the passport to the applicant is allowed by the passport center as a result of the examination; and

receiving/providing cash from/to the applicant when the fee is to be paid by cash,

wherein the financial institution, the public institution, and the passport center are different institutions.

Claim 52 (New): The passport transaction method according to claim 51, wherein the remote site is the passport center.

Claim 53 (New): The passport transaction method according to claim 51, further comprising:

registering at the passport center authentication data for identifying the applicant and the photograph of the applicant, when the applicant is to receive the passport on a later day; and

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issuing the passport when the passport center allows the issuance of passport based on authentication data input by the applicant on the later day, the image of the applicant transmitted to the remote site when the applicant is inputting the authentication data, and the authentication data and photograph registered at the passport center.

Claim 54 (New): A passport transaction system, comprising:

a financial institution;

a public institution;

a passport center which examines passport applications; and

a passport transaction apparatus connected via a network to the financial institution, the public institution, and the passport center, wherein the passport transaction apparatus includes:

a card processing unit configured to receive a card for an applicant's account at a financial institution, and to read data on the card;

a data input unit configured to receive from the applicant input data including at least one of personal information of the applicant, a code number of the card, and a handwritten signature of the applicant, and to input the input data;

an image input unit configured to take a photograph of the applicant, and to input an image of the applicant so as to monitor the applicant from a remote site remote from the passport transaction apparatus;

a control unit configured to

transmit the image input by the image input unit to the remote site via a network,

transmit the code number input by the data input unit and the data read by the card processing unit via the network to the financial institution;

receive registered personal information of the applicant from the financial institution and data related to an official certificate of the applicant from a public institution, when the financial institution identifies the applicant based on the code number and the data transmitted;

transmit via the network the registered personal information received or the personal information input by the data input unit and the data related to the official certificate to a passport center which examines passport applications, and

communicate with the financial institution to process a payment based on the data read by the card processing unit and the code number input by the data input unit, when a fee for a passport application is to be paid with the card;

a passport issuing unit configured to prepare and output a passport using the photograph taken by the image input unit and the handwritten signature input by the data input unit when issuance of a passport to the applicant is allowed by the passport center as a result of the examination; and

a cash processing unit configured to receive and provide cash from and to the applicant when the fee is to be paid by cash, wherein

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the financial institution, the public institution, and the passport center are different institutions.

Claim 55 (New): The passport transaction system according to claim 54, wherein the remote site is the passport center.

Claim 56 (New): The passport transaction system according to claim 54, wherein the passport transaction apparatus is connected to the financial institution and the public institution via the passport center.

Claim 57 (New): The passport transaction system according to claim 54, further comprising a passport processing unit configured to receive an issued passport and read contents of the issued passport, wherein the data input unit is configured to receive and input corrected contents from an applicant as the personal information when the contents read are required to be corrected.

Claim 58 (New): The passport transaction system according to claim 54, further comprising a receipt issuing unit configured to issue a receipt on which authentication data for identifying the applicant when the applicant returns to the passport transaction apparatus on a later day to receive a passport is printed, wherein

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the authentication data is registered at the passport center with personal information of the applicant, and

the passport issuing unit is configured to issue the passport to the applicant when the passport center allows the issuance of passport based on authentication data input by the applicant via the data input unit on the later day and the authentication data registered at the passport center.

Claim 59 (New): The passport transaction system according to claim 58, wherein the passport issuing unit is configured to issue the passport when the passport center allows the issuance of passport based on the photograph of the applicant stored at the passport center and the image of an applicant who comes to the transaction apparatus to receive the passport on the later day input by the image input unit.

Claim 60 (New): The passport transaction system according to claim 54, further comprising a voice input/output unit configured to output a voice guidance to the applicant and to input a voice from the applicant.

Claim 61 (New): The passport transaction system according to claim 54, wherein the data input unit is a touch panel display.

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Claim 62 (New): The passport transaction system according to claim 54, wherein the card processing unit is configured to read personal information of an applicant directly from a recording medium.

Claim 63 (New): The passport transaction system according to claim 62, wherein the recording medium is an IC card.